




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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ADJOURNMENT

Herston Quarter

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.12 pm): Before I speak about the Herston Quarter, as a proud Italian-Australian I would like to offer my condolences to the victims of the earthquake that struck central Italy on 24 August, in particular the town of Amatrice. This terrible natural disaster has claimed the lives of at least 292 people and left almost 3,000 people homeless. All of those affected by this tragedy are in our thoughts and prayers. I look forward to working with the Italian community on fundraising efforts to support those in need following the deadly quake.

I am also proud to represent an electorate that contains one of Australia's leading health precincts. The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Herston and adjacent facilities, including the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, are all world renowned. The QIMR is at the forefront of medical innovation and research, developing lifesaving treatments that are transforming health care both here and abroad. I am pleased to say that, in addition to all of these facilities, Herston will soon be home to a new \$1.1 billion health, aged-care, residential and retail precinct. This is great news for Queensland, inner-city jobs and the state's economy, and it is great news for my electorate of Brisbane Central.

Public health services will be front and centre at the Herston Quarter with the delivery of a 132-bed world-class Specialist Rehabilitation and Ambulatory Care Centre. Herston Quarter will mean more economic development opportunities for Queensland, supporting 700 jobs annually during the 10-year development period, along with hundreds of jobs annually in its operational phase.

Importantly, the heritage buildings on the site—which are in need of significant repair and investment—will be rejuvenated and are at the heart of the development. Australian Unity also intends to make a multimillion dollar investment in the public realm to create a variety of attractive, accessible and comfortable new public spaces for visitors and residents to enjoy.

Herston Quarter will deliver health and hospital services, aged care, research, education and complementary uses. I have received a full briefing on the Herston Quarter redevelopment and I am satisfied that any parking and traffic issues will be addressed during planning and discussion. The redevelopment plan includes a significant expansion of off-street parking and plans are being developed to manage any increased traffic flows. Local residents can be confident that disruption during construction will be minimised and that the project will deliver real benefits to the people of Brisbane Central.

This is a magnificent site, the site of the old Royal Children's Hospital. It will be developed into one of the most world-class health precincts that we are yet to see here in Australia. We are very proud.